

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01381 110825Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 /077 W

-----069015 120452Z /65

R 101329Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 681

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TONW

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMMBASSY MAPUTO 2342

USMISSION GNEVA

USMISSION USUN NW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 1381

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: HIGH COURT DENIES SASO/BPC APPEAL

REF: PRETORIA 2118 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS, THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUPREME COURT IN BLOEMFONTEIN HAS REFUSED TO GRANT LEAVE TO APPEAL FOR THE NINE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION (SASO) AND BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC) MEMBERS CONVICTED AT THE MARATHON 16-MONTH "SASO/BPC" OR "BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS" TRIAL IN PRETORIA. (THE NINE WERE FOUND GUILTY OF TWO COUNTS UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT IN

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DECMBER 1976 AND GIVEN FIVE OR SIX YEAR SENTENCES. THEY HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED ON ROBBEN ISLAND SINCE CONVICTION AND THE APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS SPENT IN DETENTION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1976 DOES NOT AFFECT THEIR SENTENCES.)

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE BLOEMFONTEIN DECISION WAS

THE LAST REMAINING HOPE FOR THE SASO/BPC PRISONERS,  
THIS HIGH COURT DECISION DID NOT TAKE ANYONE BY SUR-  
PRISE. SEVERAL SASO/BPC DEFENSE LAWYERS HAD PRE-  
VIOUSLY TOLD AN ENBOFF THAT THE COURT WAS UNLIKELY TO  
GRANT AN APPEAL.  
BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COURT DECISIONS, TERRORISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR01381  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 PRETORIA 2118  
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**SAS ID:** 3372490  
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**Subject:** HIGH COURT DENIES SASO/BPC APPEAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SF, SASO, BPC  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014